objects discovered during excavation on the monument. The exposed octagonal wall running round the mound has already been conserved.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

Development of tourist spots in Maharashtra

3367. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleassed to state:

(a) the details of the schemes of Government to develop tourists spots in the country, particularly in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of foreign tourists who visited Maharashtra during the year 2002-2003; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the flow of foreign tourists in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and would be placed on the Table of the House.

Development of tourism in Eastern States

3368. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a special task force for the development of tourism in the Eastern States;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard; and

(c) if not, what other steps are being taken to tap the tourist potential of the Eastern States and develop the infrastructure to attract more number domestic as well as foreign tourists to those States?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the Ninth Plan, 181 projects with Central financial assistance of Rs..3629.01 lakhs were sanctioned in the Eastern States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal.

During the year 2002-03,3 projects with Central financial assistance of Rs. 746.10 lakhs have been sanctioned in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal.

The Department of Tourism is also promoting tourist places in the Eastern States through India tourism offices in India and abroad.

Handing over of security of Red Fort to CISF

3369. PROF. M SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to handover the security of historic Red Fort to Central Industrial Security Force (CISF);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what prompted Government to come to this conclusion; and

(d) if so, whether Government are considering similar decision in connection with other historic monuments in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OFTOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) After the decision of the Central Government to develop the Red Fort as one of the cultural and tourism hubs in the country it was felt necessary to get the entire complex vacated by the Army besides attending to conservation, preservation and development of various monuments located therein and the area around. As a result of the inter-ministerial discussions, it has been decided that the Army would vacate the entire Red Fort in phases beginning April, 2003. On 8 April, 2003 the Army has handed over the buildings and open area occupied by the Supply Platoon in Red Fort besides eight security posts.

Accordingly, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has taken over the security of the area under the control of the Archaeological Survey of India from 8 April, 2003 and 205 personnel have till date been deployed in the Red Fort complex. The Central Government have also started a massive programme of conservation and preservation of various buildings under protection, landscaping the open areas and overall development of the entire complex keeping in view the requirements of the tourists. Details of the works are annexed at Statement *(See* belowj.

(d) No, Sir.